



Member Organizations

*The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services*
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

*Domestic Violence Program
United Services*
Dayville, CT

*Network Against Domestic
Abuse*
Enfield, CT

*Domestic Abuse Services
Greenwich YWCA*
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

*Chrysalis Domestic Violence
Services*
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

*The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services*
New Haven, CT

Safe Futures
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

*Domestic Violence Program
United Services*
Willimantic, CT

Testimony Supporting **SB 330, AA Establishing a Human Right to Equal Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health**

Insurance & Real Estate Committee February 14, 2019

Good afternoon Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon and members of the committee. Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them. We are made up of 18 member programs that provide essential services to nearly 40,000 victims of domestic violence each year. These services include 24-hour crisis response, emergency shelter, safety planning, counseling, support groups and court advocacy.

We urge your support of SB 330.

The proposed bill seeks to establish a human right to equal enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. Connecticut should reinstate statutory language identifying healthcare as a human right in order to address the health disparities that currently exist. This was a recommendation offered by the Women's Issues Policy Committee of Governor Lamont's Transition Policy Working Group.

Healthcare at its very core should be universal and guaranteed for all on an equitable basis. SB 330 is especially important to victims of domestic violence who experience increased rates of chronic conditions due to the trauma associated with domestic violence. Domestic violence has no boundaries; it can affect people of every race, sex, ethnicity, and ability at any time. Nationally, 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 7 men, have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Experience domestic violence is directly linked to chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, activity limitations, poor physical and mental health, harmful behaviors, high risk pregnancies, diabetes, brain injury and countless other adverse health conditions. Healthcare as a human right is essential in order to address the enormous affects that domestic violence can have on victims and their families across the state.

I strongly urge you to support victims of domestic violence by passing SB 330, An Act Establishing a Human Right to Equal Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
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